

ORDER 450.1
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
PROGRAM
WORKSHOP

**The Uniform Federal Policy for Implementing
Environmental Quality Systems (UFP-QS)**

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Key Questions

- I. What is the UFP-QS?
- II. What is a Quality System?
- III. What is the relationship between UFP and EMS?
- IV. What is the UFP Approach?
- V. How to access the UFP-QS document?

I. What is the UFP-QS?

- The UFP-QS is a consensus document that addresses real and perceived inconsistencies and deficiencies in quality control for laboratory data within and across governmental organizations which resulted in greater costs, time delay, and potential increased risk.
- The UFP was developed as a collaborative effort by Intergovernmental Data Quality Task Force including DOE, EPA, and DOD in 1997.
- The UFP was approved for DOE use by EH-1 on December 13, 2002.

UFP-QS Objectives

- Provides essential elements of a quality system for management of environmental data collection and use.
- Provides a framework to Federal agencies for documenting and implementing an acceptable intergovernmental quality system that is based on: *Part A of “Specifications and Guidelines for Quality Systems for Environmental Data Collection and Environmental Technology Programs, the American National Standards Institute/American Society for Quality Control Standard E4 (ANSI/ ASQC E4, 1994).”*

UFP-QS Objectives (cont'd)

- Provides guidance to document, assess, and improve existing quality systems.
- Encourages Federal agencies to adopt this document as policy, rule, or guidance for managing environmental data collection and use.

II. What is a Quality System?

- The Quality System is a structured and documented management system that describes the policies and implementation plan of an organization. It assures that data used to support environmental decisions are of adequate quality and usability for their intended purpose.
- The overall goal of this consensus system is simple: sound decisions must be based on sound documented data.

What is a Quality System? (cont'd)

Parts of Quality System

- At organization level: It is documented in a Quality Management Plan (QMP). The QMP details information by which the organization will manage, plan, implement, assess, and continually improve the activities involved in environmental data collection and use.
- At project level: It is documented in a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). It is based on ANSI/ASQC-E4, Part B, “collection and evaluation of environmental data.”

III. What is the Relationship Between UFP and EMS

- The UFP offers an implementation tool for meeting Section 5(d)(15) of the DOE O 450.1, *“Ensuring the analytical work supporting environmental monitoring is implemented using:*
 - (a) a consistent system for collecting, assessing, and documenting environmental data of known and documented quality.”*
- Failure to have in place a Quality System for the management of environmental data collection and use programs as part of an EMS is costly.

Relationship Between UFP and EMS (cont'd)

- **Example:**

- (i) lack of procedures to store and retrieve previously collected environmental data often creates a need for the collection of new data.
- (ii) Failure to implement a systematic planning process often leads to the collection of wrong data at a quality not appropriate for its intended use. This creates a need for additional collection and analysis of samples.

IV. What is The UFP Approach?

SUPPORTS SOUND EMS IMPLEMENTATION

Systematic Planning:

Based on scientific method, common sense, and a graded approach to ensure that the level of detail in planning depends on the importance and intended use of the work and available resources.

Holistic Approach:

Consolidates site-wide data collection across projects, programs, and media. It enhances knowledge, communication, and promotes a graded approach necessary to optimize and conserve valuable resources.

Maintaining Linkage:

Maintains linkage among systematic planning, implementation, and assessment stages of environmental data collection to ensure that the data produced meet their intended purpose and are documented and defensible.

V. How to access the UFP-QS?

- The UFP-QS is available at:
<http://www.epa.gov/swerffrr/library/data.htm>.
- ANSI/ASQC E4 is available at:
ASQC, P.O. Box 3005, Milwaukee, WI 53201
(414) 272-8575
- EH Contact:
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(202) 586-1306

That is all

Thank you for your attention
and
Good Luck

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